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EBNN



Quoth the Raven

Send letters to: NOW COMICS c/o EB'NN, P.O. Box 8042, Chicago, IL 60680-8042

Random bits, pieces, and assorted stuff.

Item one: Chicago-Con 1986. NOW COMICS' premiere appearance at this year's Chicago-Comicon was a tremendous success. With a spiffy display and plenty of personal appearances from our cast of creative talent, NOW left a lasting impression upon both the pro and fan contingent who attended the con. In attendance were publisher **Tony Caputo**, **Jim McGreal** (programmer/creator of VECTOR), **Mark A. Nelson** (SILVERWING), **Grass Green** (COMBAT WOMBAT), **Steve Smith** and **Blair Kramer** (of the upcoming SILENCER graphic novel), driving recklessly all the way from Michigan, **Marc** (RALPH SNART) **Hansen**. Also attending from out of state, the creator of SYPHONS and VALOR THUNDERSTAR, **Allen Curtis** of Atlanta and **Jonathon Carr** of Cincinnati. Last, but not least, the terrible (?) trio who produce this book, **Chris**, **Mike** and **myself**. The pace was frantic as everyone pitched in and manned the NOW tables, answering questions and signing autographs. Personally, I enjoyed seeing the portfolios of all the aspiring and (as yet!) unpublished talent. With the quality books we are currently producing and the projects we have planned, we are proving that the future of comics is NOW.

Item two: New Bi-Monthly EB'NN. Yep, starting this issue, your favorite fun-loving raven will appear on the stands of your favorite comic shop every other month. Next issue a painted cover by **Matt Wagner** (of MAGE fame) leads off a ripping wild western yarn titled, "The Last Gunfight of Dirty Dingo Dawg!" (For more info on next issue, see letters page.)

Item three: **Mike Schneider** retires crowquill. It is with great sadness that **Chris** and **I** say goodbye to **Inker, Mike ("the Schnide") Schneider**. Mike, who has done a great job for us on EB'NN, has decided to cut back on his comic work. But never fear, Mike's painting and inking skills will still occasionally grace the covers and pages of EB'NN and other NOW titles. Who is going to replace Mike? Ah, that would be telling!

Michael Dimpsey
Editor



...YA KNOW, SON, ONCE THERE WAS A GREAT FOREST IN THIS VERY SPOT! MILLIONS OF TREES, THEIR LEAFY BRANCHES REACHIN' TO TH' HEAVENS, OFFERIN' SHADE AN' SOLITUDE TO WHOEVER DESIRED IT. AN' IN THE AUTUMN... ORANGE, RED AN' GOLD, MORE PRECIOUS THAN ANY METAL.

WHAT DOES A TREE LOOK LIKE?

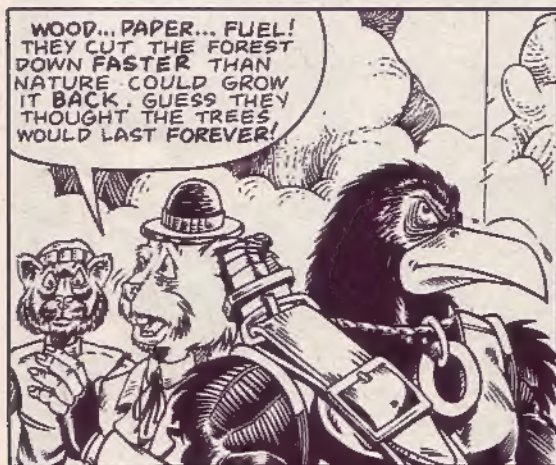


YER SAYIN' YOU'VE NEVER SEEN A TREE, TIGER?!

MY MA HAD A PLANT ONCE, BUT IT DIED. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE TREES, JACK?

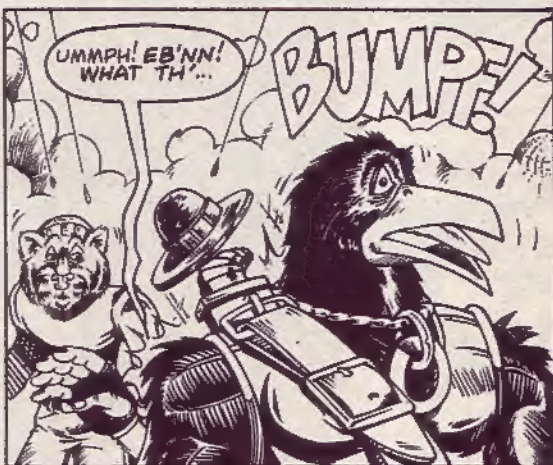


WOOD... PAPER... FUEL! THEY CUT THE FOREST DOWN FASTER THAN NATURE COULD GROW IT BACK. GUESS THEY THOUGHT THE TREES WOULD LAST FOREVER!



UMMPH! EB'NN! WHAT TH'...

BUMP!



AH, JACK...



BRINGING UP BABY

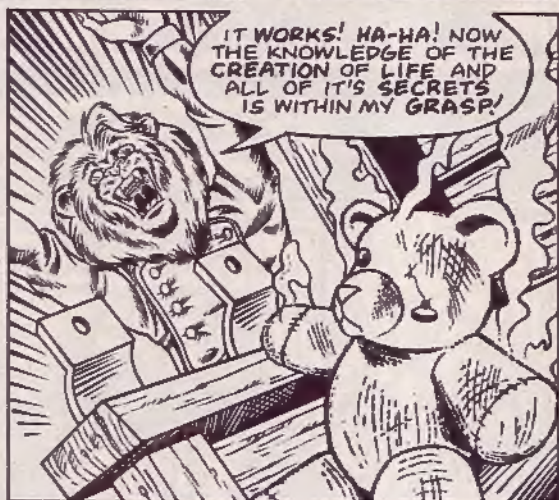


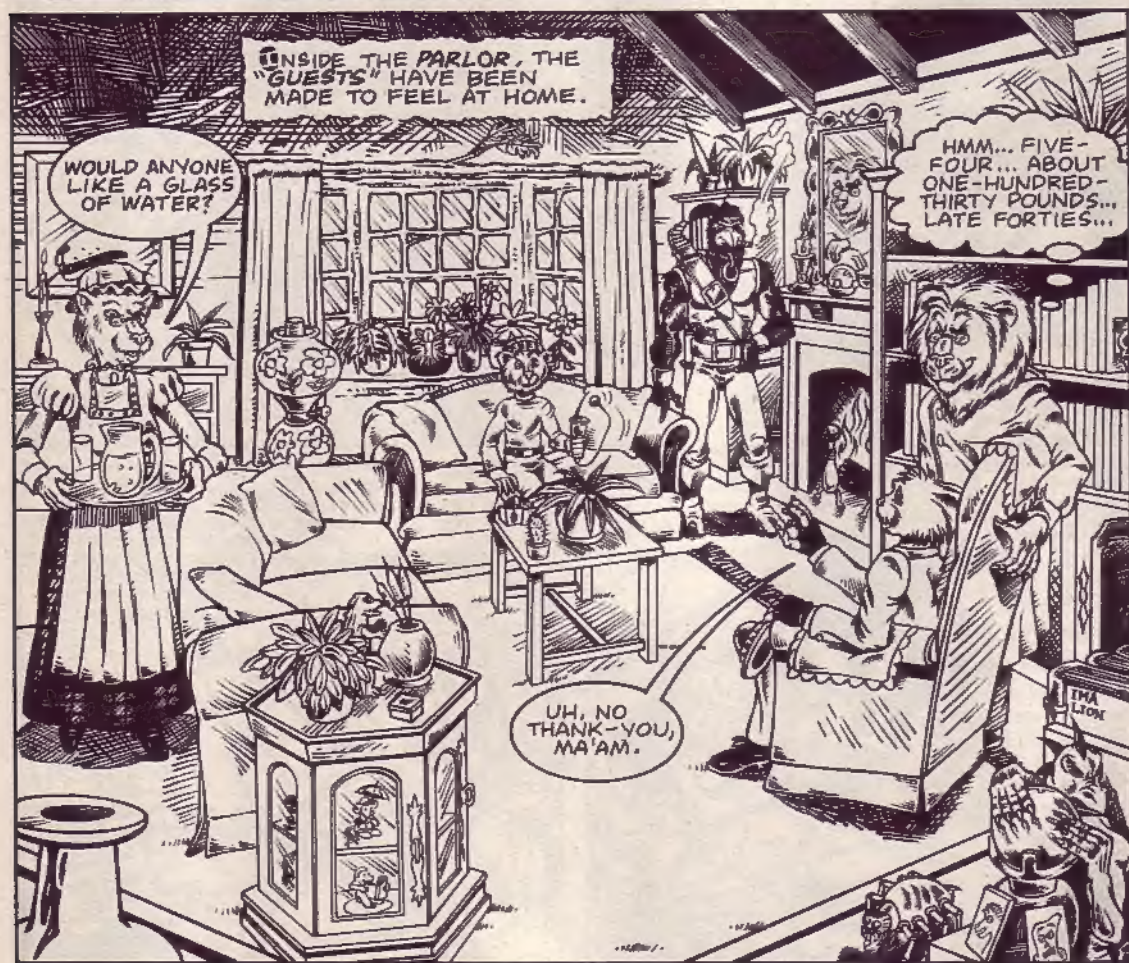
CREATORS

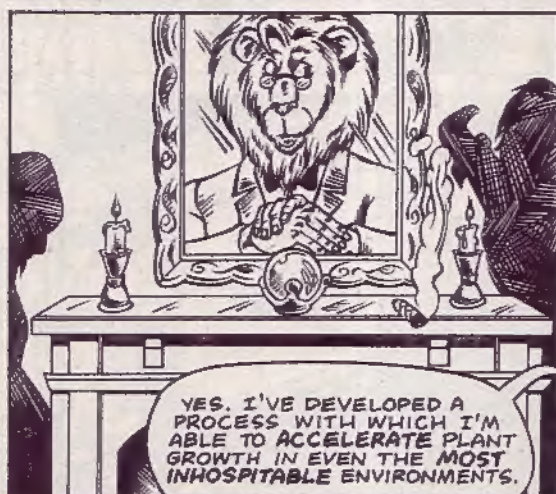
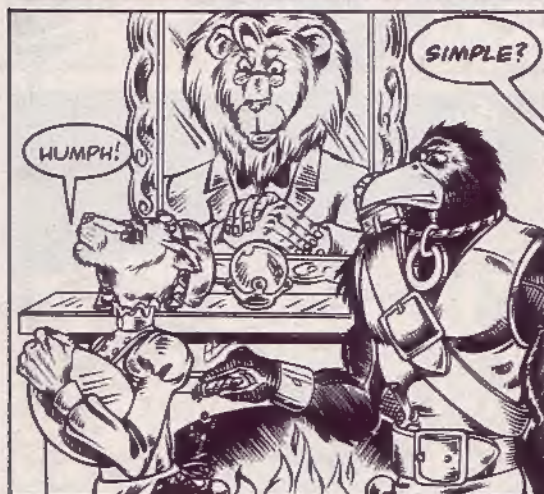
MIKE DIMPSEY
WRITER

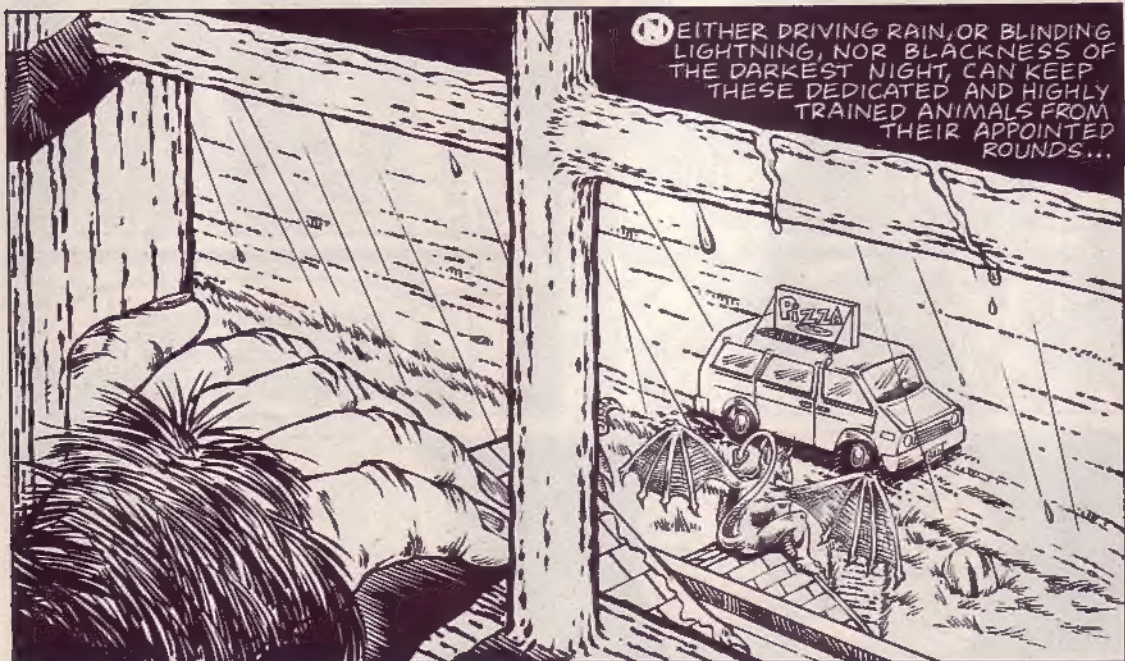
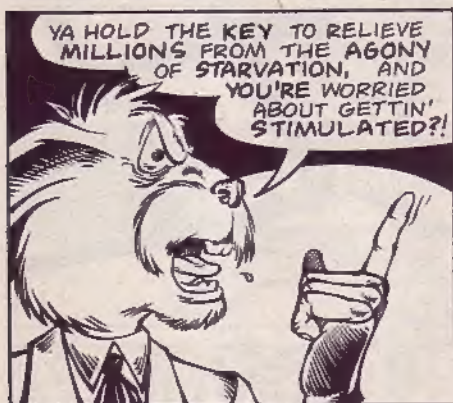
CHRIS ECKER
PENCILS/LETTERS

MIKE
SCHNEIDER
INKS/GOO

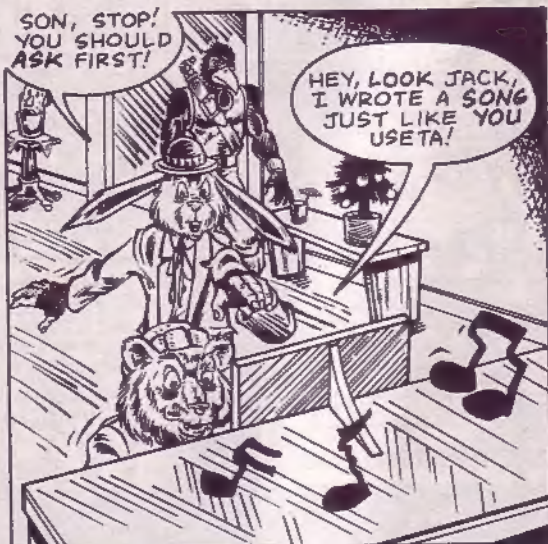


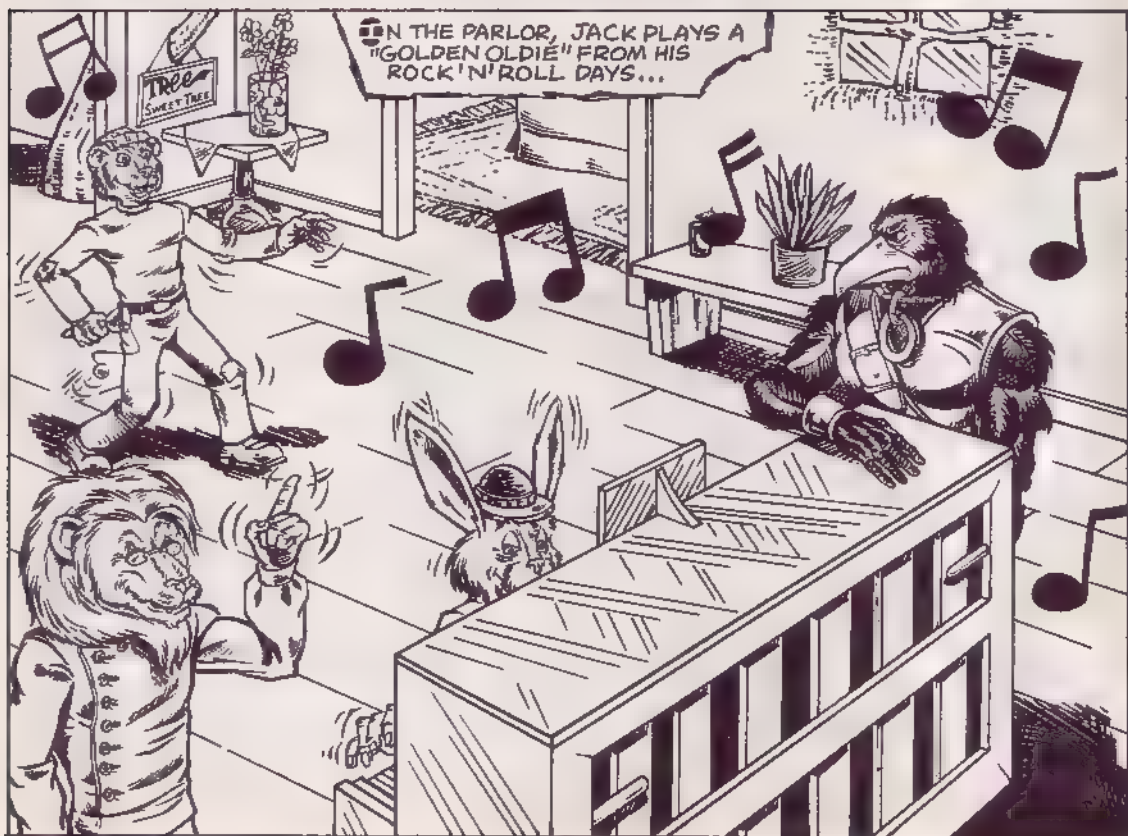
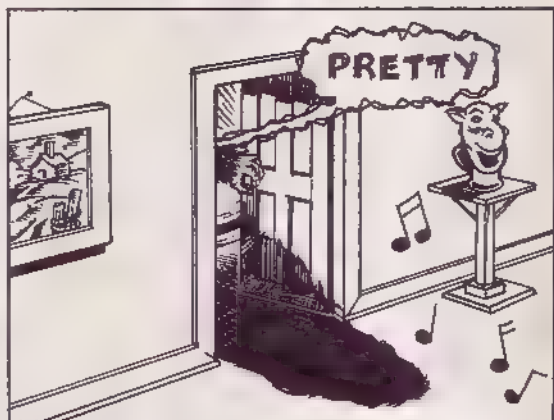
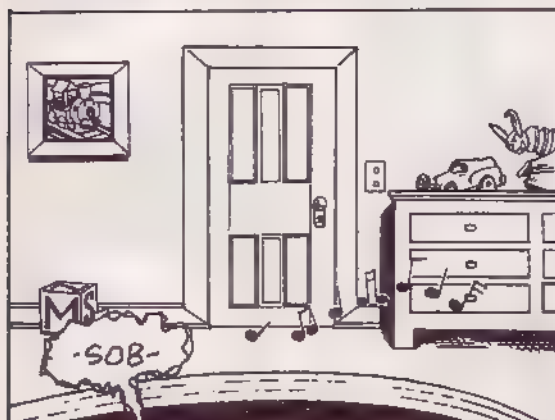




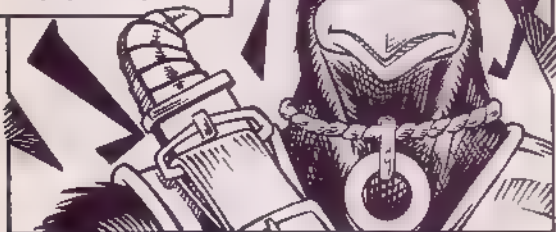








A PULSATING BEAT SHATTERS JACK'S MUSIC INTO A SHOWER OF SHIMMERING, SILVER FRAGMENTS. EACH STERLING NOTE SHUDDERS WITH MEMORIES: A STORY TO TELL. EB'NN LISTENS...



A SHADOW SINGS A MOURNFUL TUNE ABOUT A YOUNG RAVEN, WHOSE TOUCH EVOKED ECSTASY...



... THE BALLAD CONTINUES.



THE RADIANCE YOU CREATE OUT OF WOOD AND STRING IS PURE ELEGANCE, EB'NN...



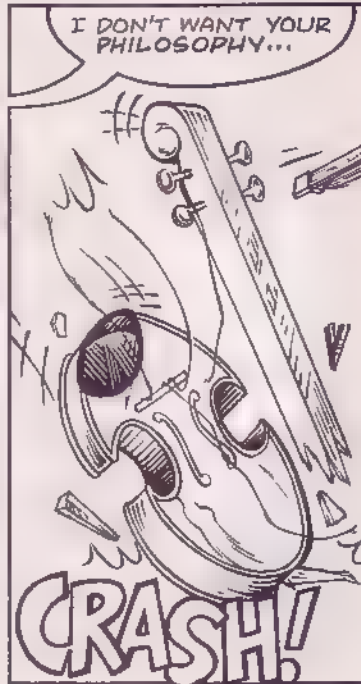
...YOUR SKILL AND TALENT CAUSES ME ENVY, YET FILLS ME WITH PEACE.



MY "ELEGANCE" DOESN'T PROVIDE ME WITH WHAT I NEED TO SURVIVE, LOU NARDOG! YOU AND THE DI'EST PROMISED TO TEACH ME TRUE ART... NEZ COMBAT!

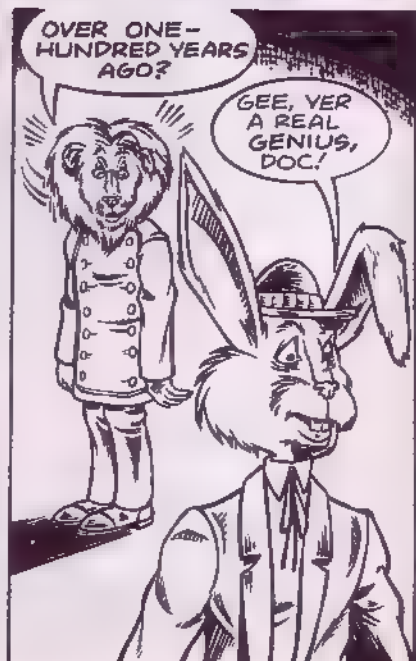
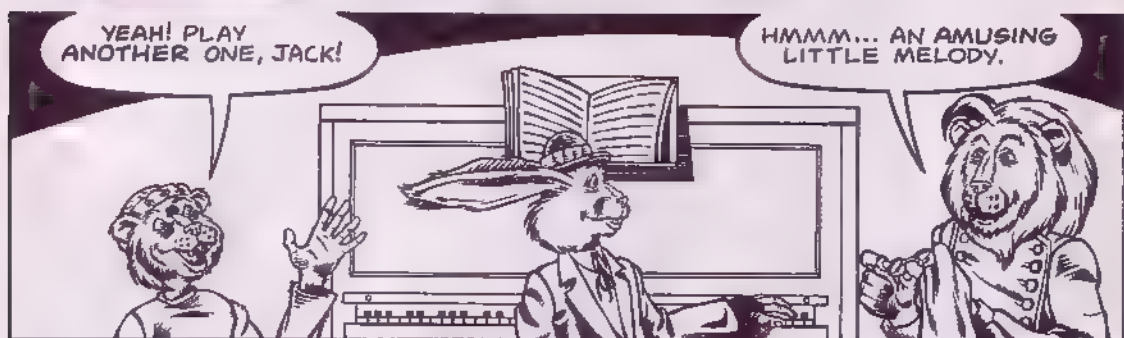
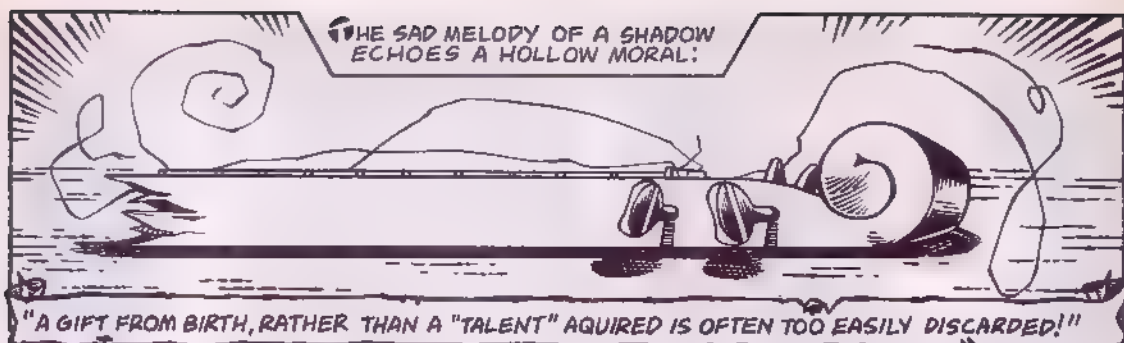


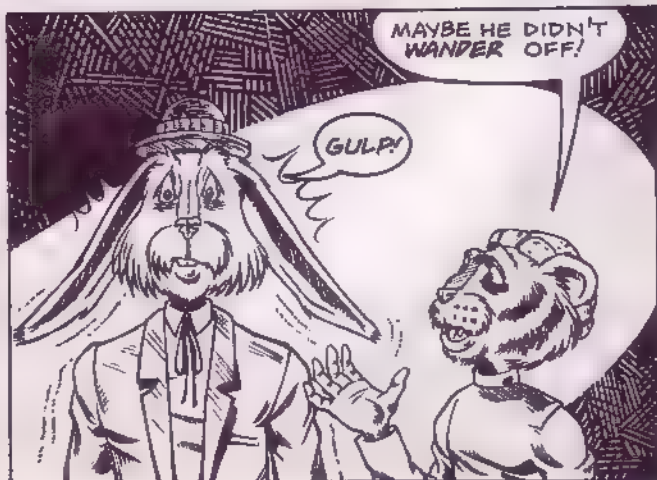
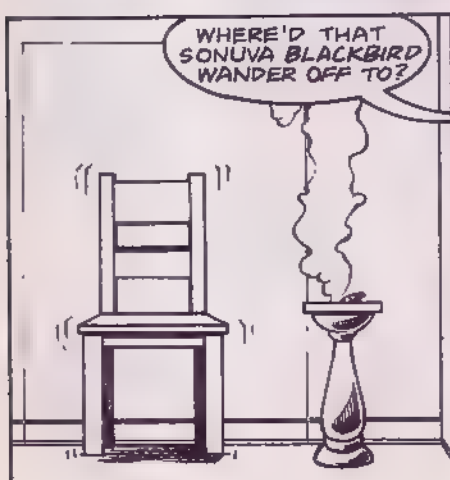
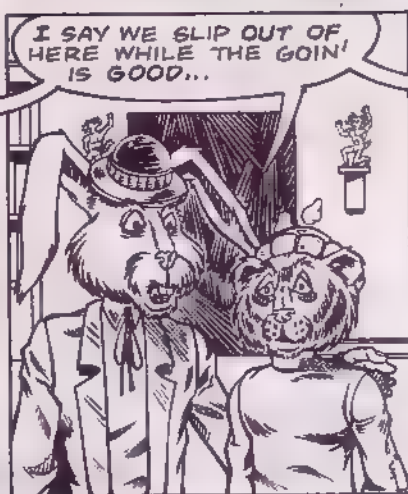
WHY DO YOU WISH TO CONQUER THE PHYSICAL WHEN THE SPIRITUAL IS ALREADY WITHIN YOUR GRASP?!

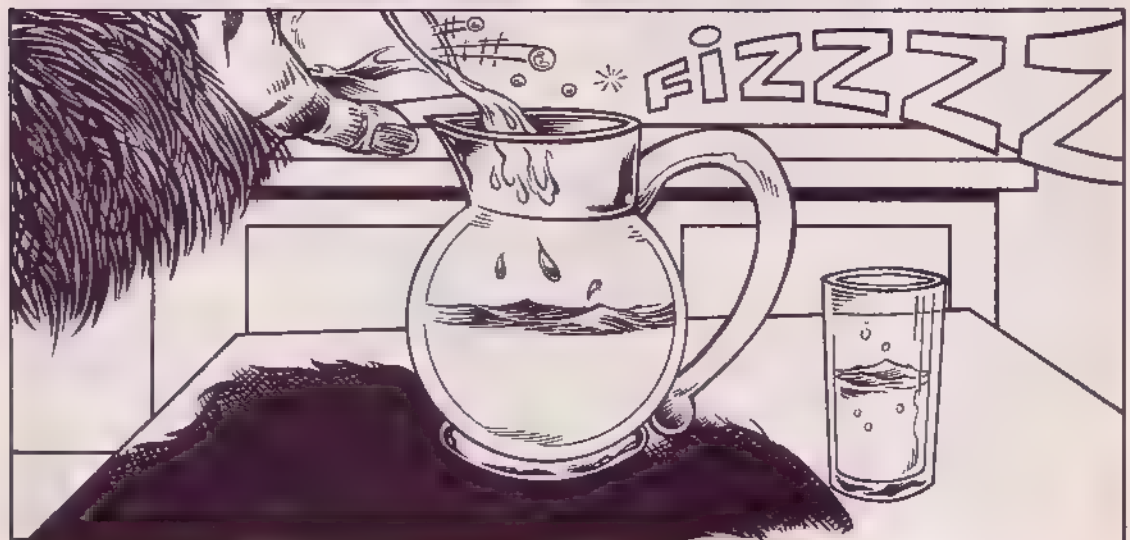
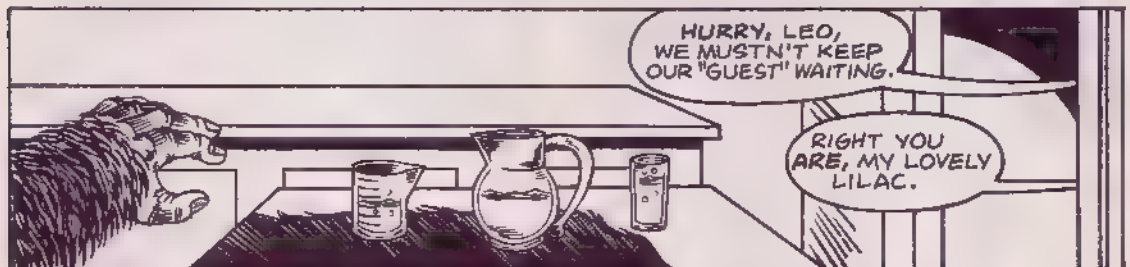
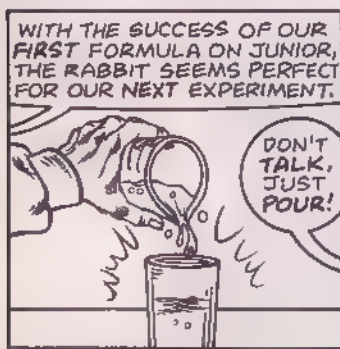
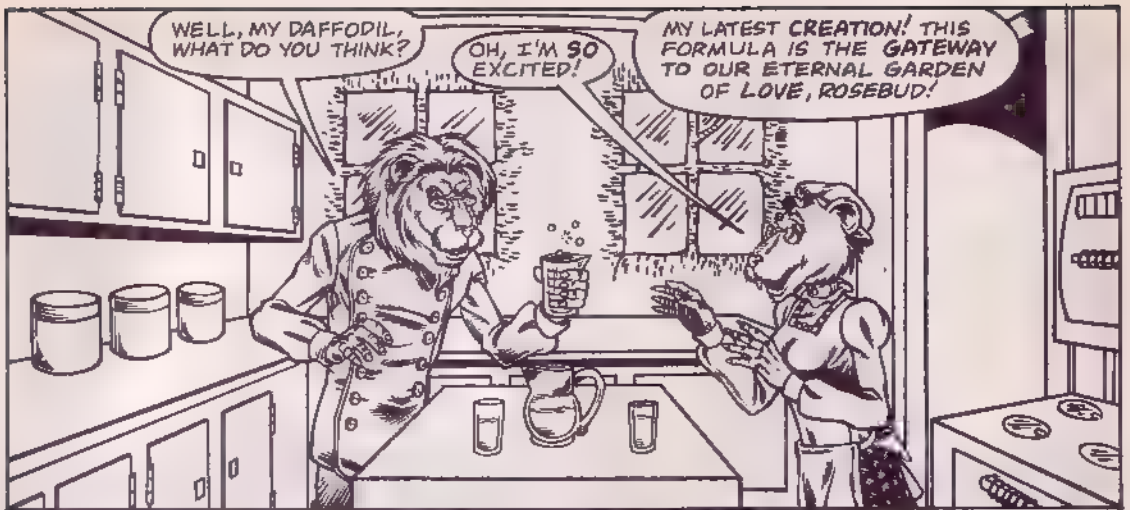


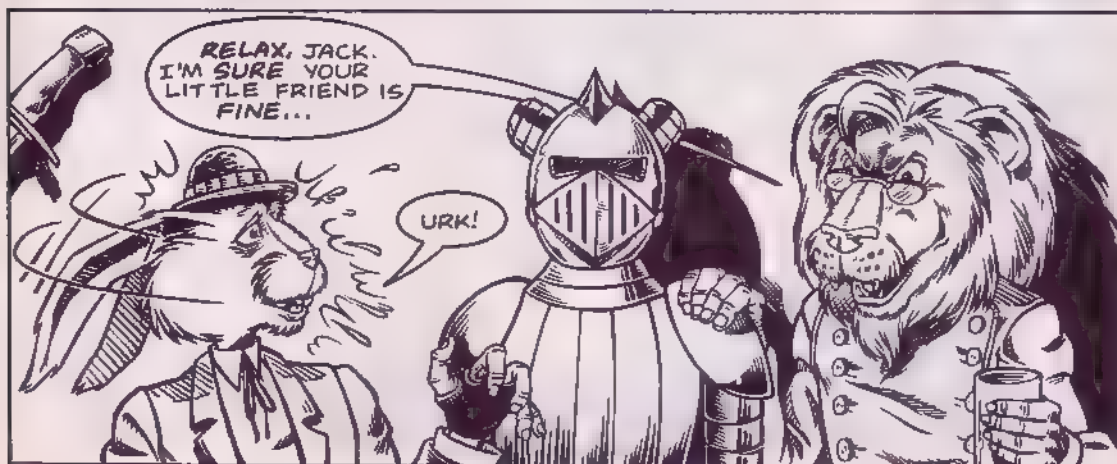
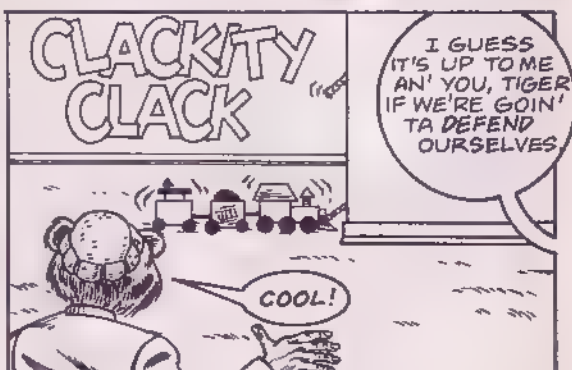
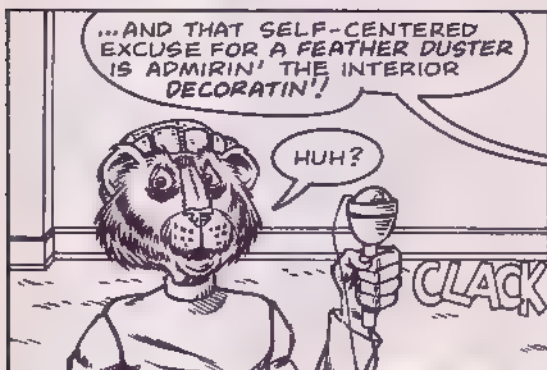
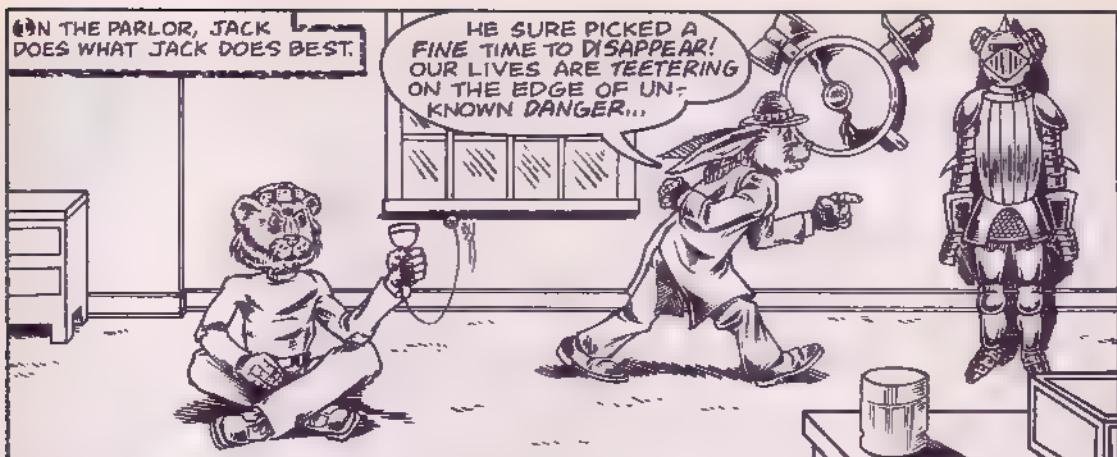
I DON'T WANT YOUR PHILOSOPHY...

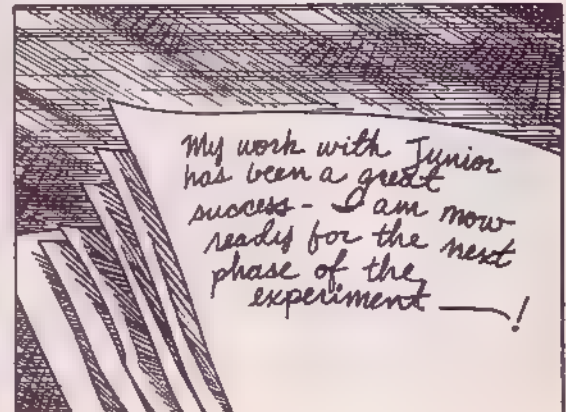
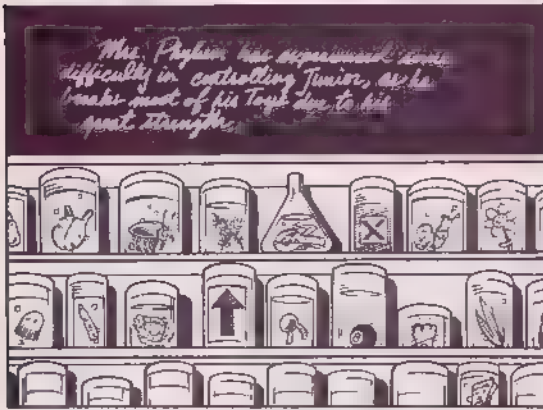
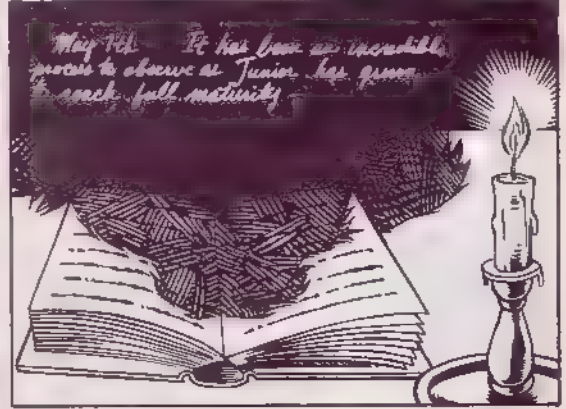
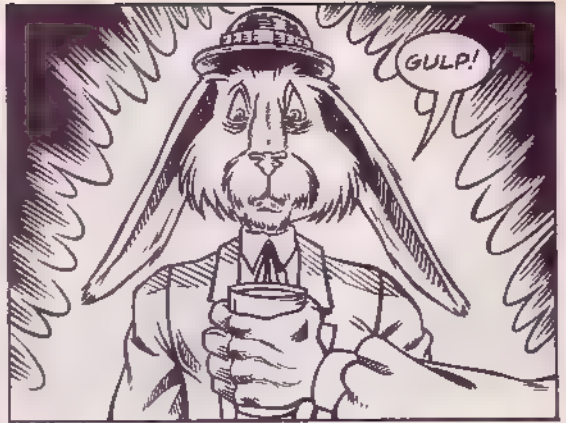
CRASH!

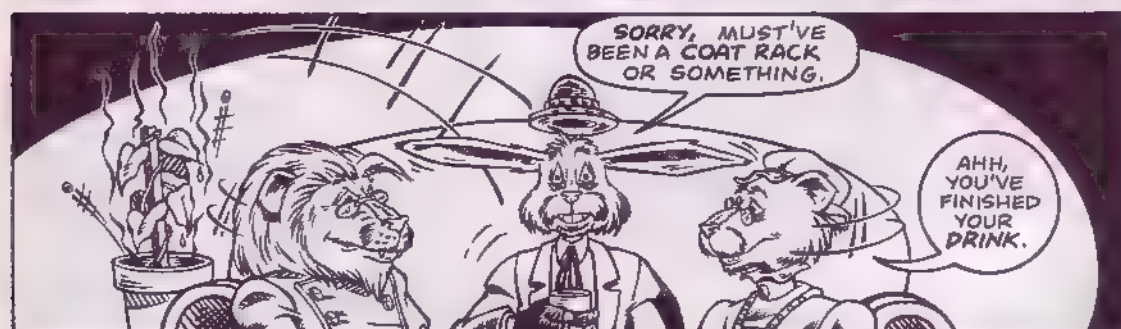
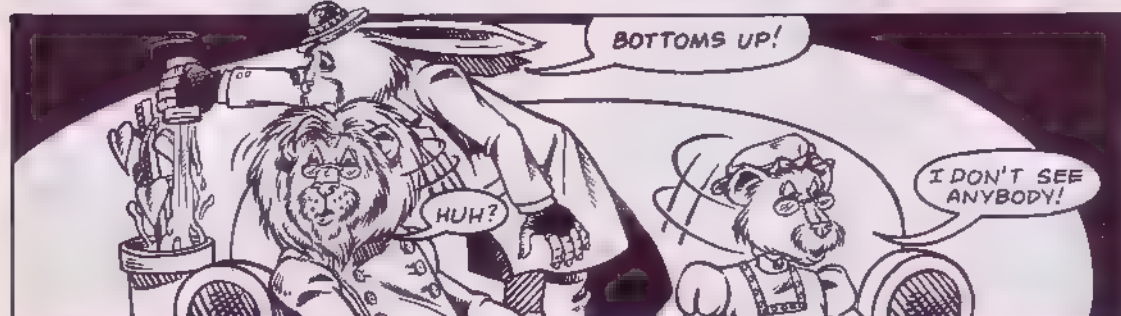




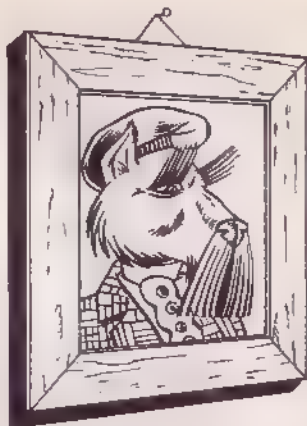








"UPSTAIRS,
TIGER HAS BEEN
HIDING IN THE
DARKNESS.
CAUTIOUSLY,
VENTURING OUT
INTO THE HALL.
THE YOUNG
CUB'S SENSES
ARE AS KEEN
AS A KNIFE'S
EDGE, SEARCH-
ING FOR A
SIGN OF HIM.
TIGER KNOWS
THE PENALTY
FOR BEING
CAUGHT..."



"HE CAN'T
CATCH ME
NOW!"



"NOT WHEN
I'M SO
CLOSE!"



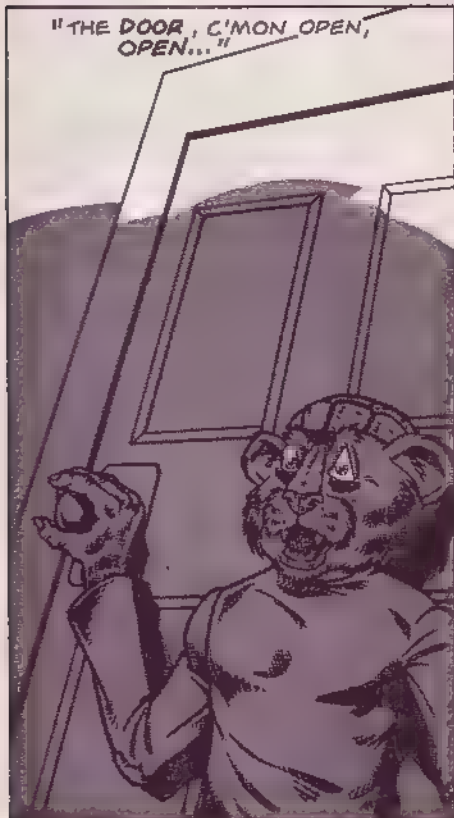
"I'VE GOT
TO GET
AWAY!"



"HE'S GAINING
ON ME!"

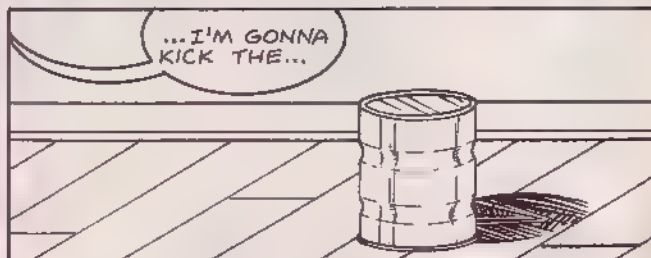


"THE DOOR, C'MON OPEN,
OPEN..."

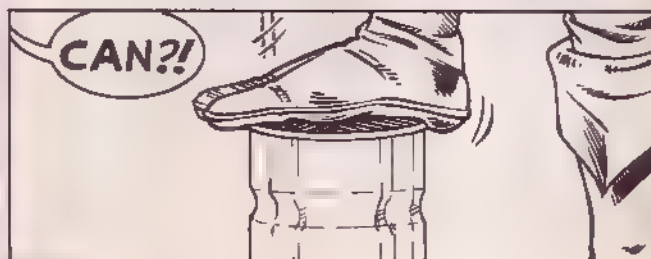


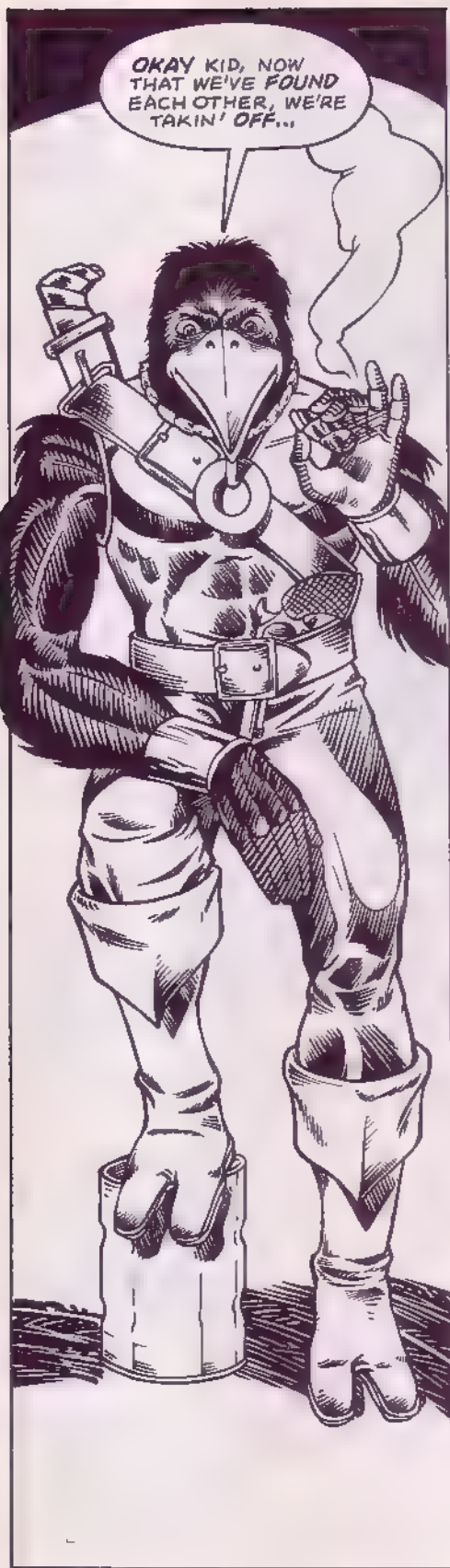
"IT'S TOO
LATE NOW..."

"...I'M GONNA
KICK THE..."



"CAN?!"





OKAY KID, NOW
THAT WE'VE FOUND
EACH OTHER, WE'RE
TAKIN' OFF...



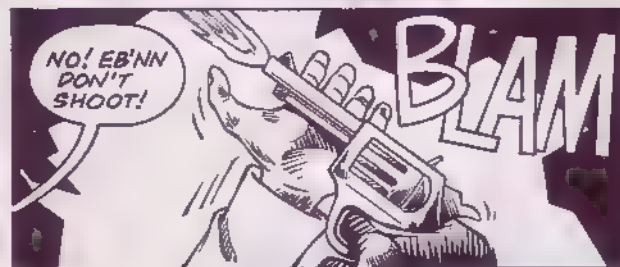
AWW,
EB'NN. I JUST
WON...NOW IT'S
HIS TURN TO
HIDE!



HOLY-- TIGER! OUT
OF TH' WAY!



"JUNIOR'S
MAD! THAT
BIG BIRD
JUST PUSHED
JUNIOR'S
NEW FRIEND.
JUNIOR
DOESN'T
LIKE
THE BIG
BIRD!"

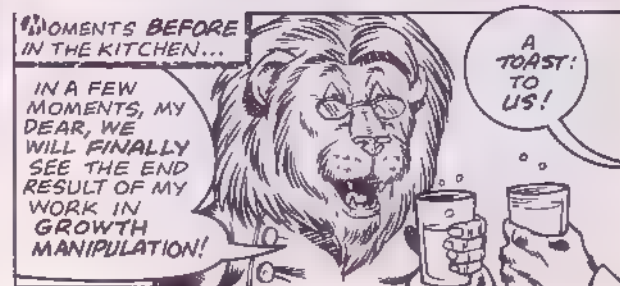


NO! EB'NN
DON'T
SHOOT!



NOW LOOK AT
WHAT YA DID!

WAAH!!



MOMENTS BEFORE
IN THE KITCHEN...

IN A FEW
MOMENTS, MY
DEAR, WE
WILL FINALLY
SEE THE END
RESULT OF MY
WORK IN
GROWTH
MANIPULATION!

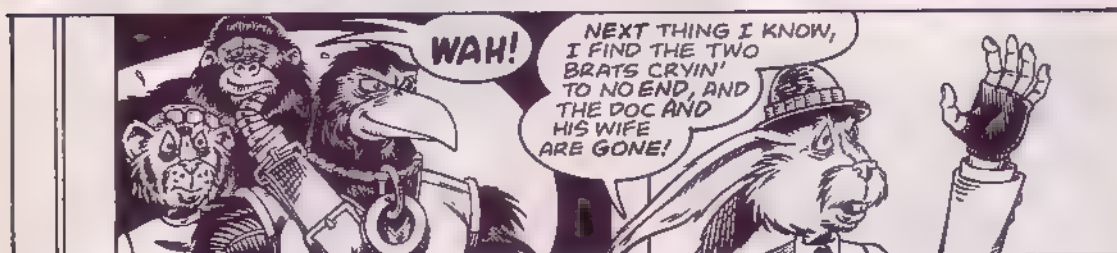
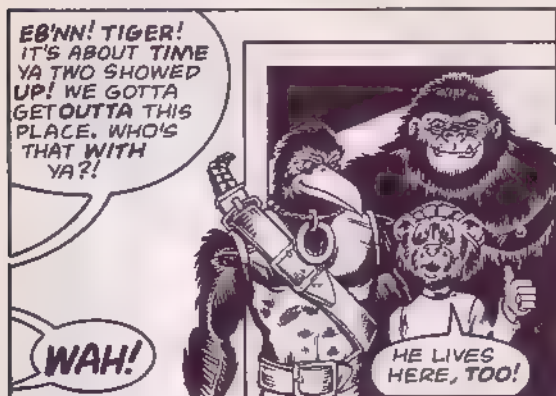
A
TOAST:
TO
US!

HE MAY BE BIG, BUT
REALLY HE'S JUST A
BABY INSIDE...

WAAH!

I DON'T KNOW
WHY YOU WERE GONNA
SHOOT HIM. WE WERE
JUST HAVING FUN. HE'S
THE NICEST GROWN-UP
I EVER KNEW!







RAVEN RAVINGS

Send letters to: NOW COMICS c/o EB'NN, P.O. Box 8042, Chicago, IL 60680

Chris and I are both pleased with the reaction we've been receiving on EB'NN at this summer's comic cons (Chicago and San Diego). Many different people, ranging from pre-teen to adult, have come up to us to express how much they enjoy EB'NN. It is very gratifying to know that EB'NN is actually the favorite comic book of some people. That's a spark which has really ignited Chris and I to do some of our best work yet. Chris' artwork has evolved to a more realistic level. He's even been working hard to master the front view of the raven (Hope you noticed, C.A.). I'm concentrating on telling complete stories in each issue. Also I'll be revealing more about the past lives of Eb'nn and Jack in upcoming stories.

I'd also like to clarify the article written about EB'NN in this summer's AMAZING HEROES PREVIEW! (Are you taking note, E.V.?) EB'NN is a joint creation (and jointly owned) between Chris and myself. CROWQUILL COMICS was created for the sole benefit of publishing EB'NN. So CROWQUILL is as much Chris' as it is mine. Also any decisions concerning EB'NN are jointly made between Chris and myself. Though it's really not a big deal, and nobody's fault, I just wanted to make sure Chris was given his fair share of the credit.

Next issue, Eb'nn and company must survive the Wild Lands and a deadly outlaw in "The Last Gunfight of Dirty Dingo Dawg!" As mentioned earlier, the cover for next issue will be a full-color painting by Matt Wagner (of MAGE fame). Also, find out what happens next in the wartime misadventures of COMBAT WOMBAT AND HIS HOWLIN' CRITTERS!

I have to congratulate everyone involved on creating the very best alternative book ever. I say "alternative" because EB'NN is far above any of the "small-press" books. EB'NN is, let's say, very believable, that is as believable as a gun/sword wielding raven can possible be. All of the characters are very distinct, unlike many other human-like animals in various other lesser books I won't mention at this moment. The writing is very personal and the art is highly detailed, having a great style all its own.

I'd also like to inquire about the SILVERWING graphic novel. I honestly think that SILVERWING is a step forward in the real-world/comic book format (as is EB'NN). I want to know when the graphic novel may be coming

out and where I would be able to get a copy.

Now or later,
Mark Hawkins
LaSalle, IL

Mark, thanks for your generous praise. "Real-world/comic book format"? Do you mean that the characters are believable and act realistically in the situations Chris and I create for them? If so, thank you! I work hard (though not always successfully) at giving the characters (be they man or beast) "real" ambitions, thoughts and emotions. Your opinion that EB'NN is full of "distinct" characters is a compliment I really appreciate.

In regards to the SILVERWING graphic novel, Mark and I are slowly but surely putting this project together. Look for SILVERWING in early '87 at any fine comic book shop (or through NOW COMICS).



Dear Eb'nn Ones,

"A State of Mind" (#3) made for an interesting, if somewhat bloody, conclusion to your initial trilogy. The emphasis was more on action than characterization this time out. On the one hand, this was understandable, as you had to move the plot along in order to wrap things up as you intended. On the other hand, this was a bit regrettable, since characterization has been your strong suit so far and the story did not read as well as the previous two. In any event, having done the scum-of-the-earth routine in New Eden, the stage is set for some more varied adventures in the wide world beyond that urban squalor. (And we don't even know *what* world yet, do we?)

Finally, from the story and from your comments in the lettercol, we got the true story on Feelwell. His organization was indeed a failed religious organization (to use my previous terminology), at least in part, and not strictly a "political" one. Feelwell was at least semi-sincere in his beliefs. He

seemed to be mixing his obsession with being liked and a genuine belief in some greater power (as evidenced on page 18). Not *much* of a basis for a religious organization, but still "in the ballpark," I think. One can never feel much sympathy for a creature as evil as he but in the end he became a pathetic sight, eliciting a few "soft" emotions in us, as we saw him for the small and petty leader he ultimately was. But we couldn't feel *too* sad over his departure.

One small point: Ralph Kramden and Ed Norton as guards just did not make it with me. Their absurd personnas detracted from the grim mood of the story and was a hindrance to the story.

Apparently, your format is changing next issue, but I must thank you so far for the big 48-page package costing just \$2.00 (Canada, remember?).

Finally, I must say that I really enjoyed the return of the immortal "Dick Duck, Duck Dick." Let's see more of this feature! And if you could see your way clear to carrying the adventures of Bullet Crow, too--well...

Yours truly,
"T.M. Maple"
Weston, Ontario, Canada

T.M., your letter closely summarizes my feelings about EB'NN #3. My only disagreement would be with your dislike for Ralf and Morton (not Ralph and Norton. Remember "Any similarity between persons living or dead is purely coincidental!") Maybe their characters did rub against the "grim" grain of the story, but I felt they added a much needed touch of absurd humor. As for DICK DUCK, DUCK DICK, we'll all be seeing much more of Jim Engel's web-footed private eye in the next two issues of EB'NN

I think that SILVERWING is WONDERFUL! Beautiful use of tone and "color" to create a film noir detective story. I'm really looking forward to the rest of the story. Is this Mark Nelson's first jump into comics? If so, then that's amazing; if not, then I'd love to know where else his work can be seen.

Keep up the great work,
Lex Nakashima
Granada Hills, CA

Lex, Mark has been working in comics for a couple of years now. He published his own "small press" book several years ago, entitled GRAZING DINOSAUR PRESS. He is currently doing the art chores on CLONZONE in First Comics' BADGER.

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ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO, THE PLANET WAS DIVIDED BY A **GREAT WAR!** A GROUP OF COUNTRIES, **THE ALLIANCE**, BANDED TOGETHER IN ORDER TO STOP THE EVIL DICTATOR, **B.O. HISSER**, AND HIS OPPRESSIVE EMPIRE FROM DOMINATING THE FREE WORLD. THE WAR RAGED FOR YEARS, TURNING ENTIRE CONTINENTS INTO BLAZING BATTLEFIELDS. BRAVE & HEROIC ANIMALS FORFEITED THEIR VERY LIVES FOR HOME AND COUNTRY. HISTORY WOULD RELATE THE TALES OF THE GREAT DEEDS PERFORMED BY THE SOLDIERS OF THAT TRAGIC CONFLICT!

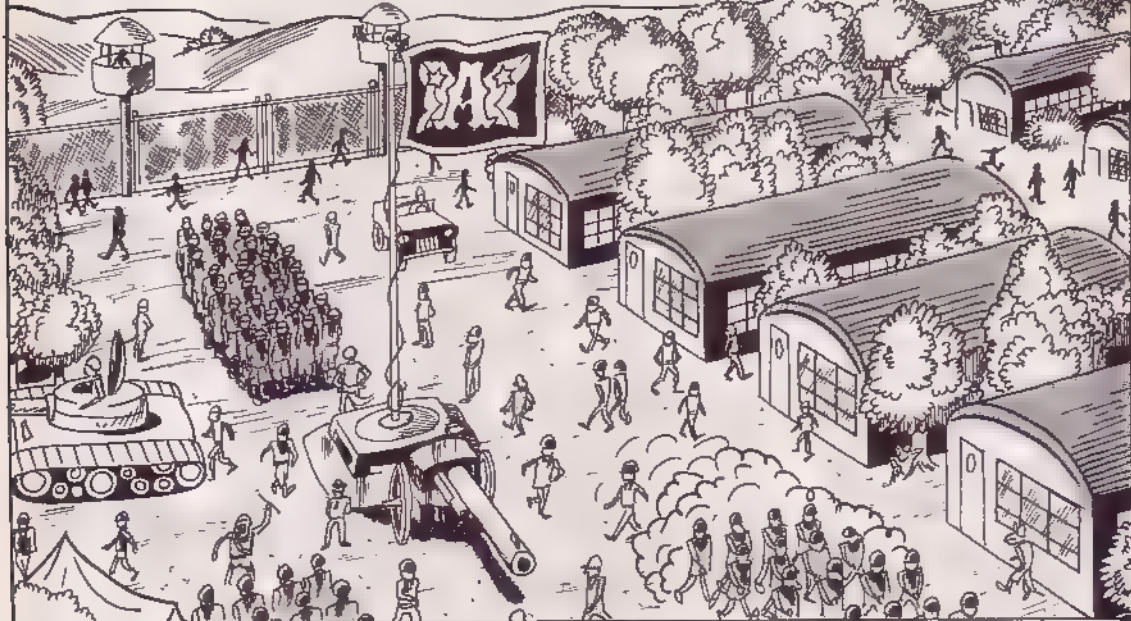
„GOOD THING HISTORY IGNORED THE OTHER 90% OF THE WAR!!

AAARRROOOOAAAAH!

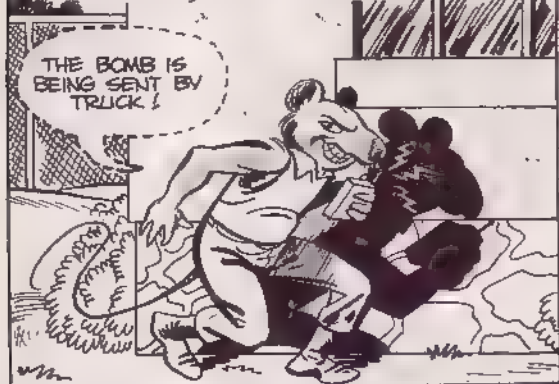


Story:
MICHAEL DINRSEY
Art: GRASS GREEN

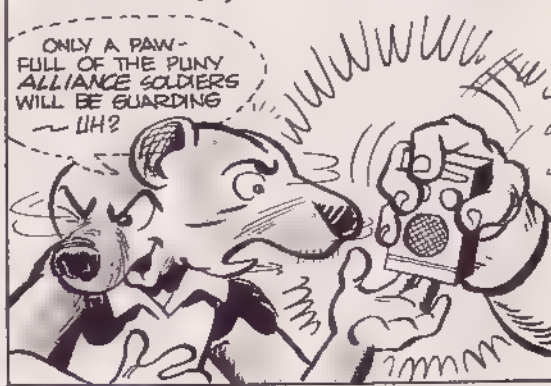
"Dear Mom, I hope you and the family are well. How's the ice? ...Well, we've been in camp for about a week, now. I'm doing fine, although it's a little *warm*..."



"No sign of the enemy yet, but I'm sure we'll be seeing some action, soon."



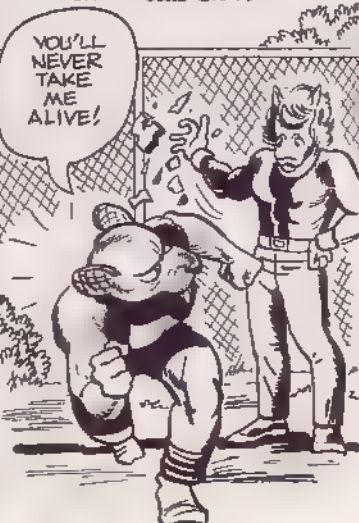
"The other soldiers in my squad are really a swell buncha guys"



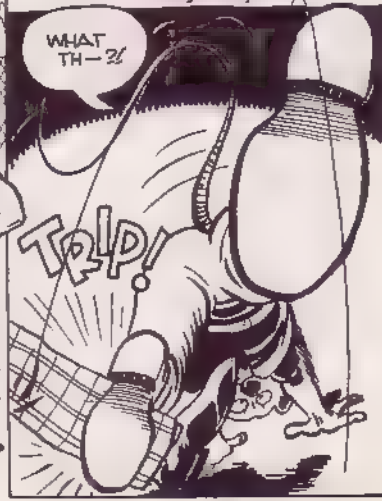
"There's a big horse from the hills. Everyone calls him Cousin Jed. He's a nice guy."



"...But I wouldn't want to get on his bad side!"



"Then, there's this monkey from the big city..."



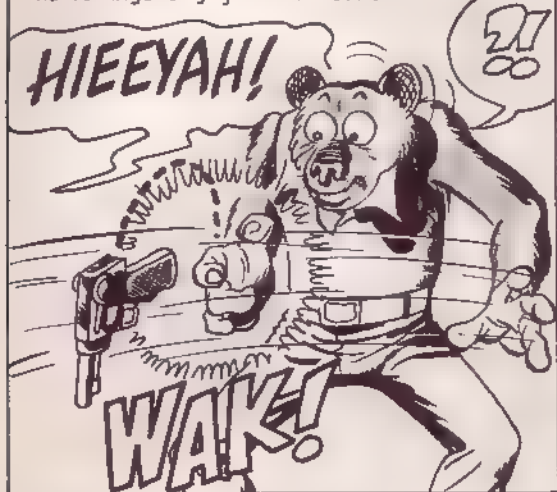
"If a soldier wants some cigarettes or chocolate, *Shoeshine* will get it for him..."



"For a small fee, of course!"



"The strangest guy in the outfit..."



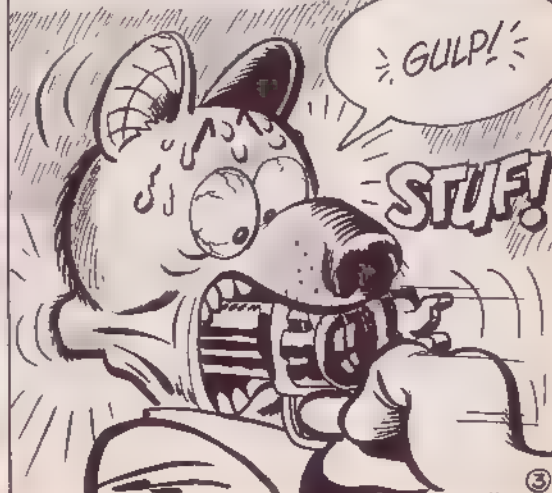
"is Eggroll. He may look harmless, but he's a master at that Kung Fu stuff!"

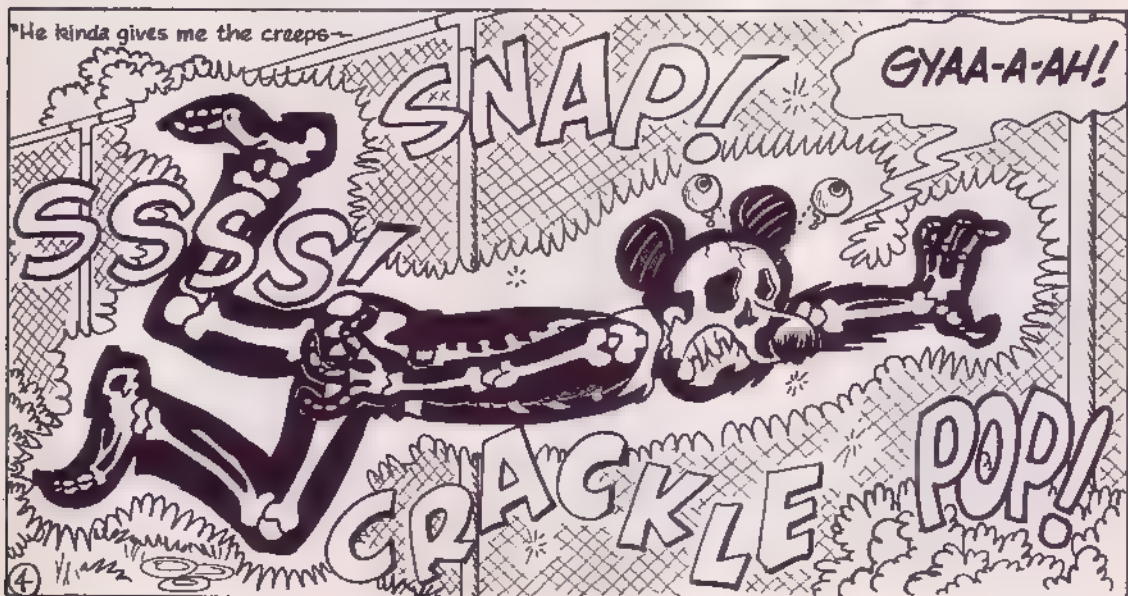
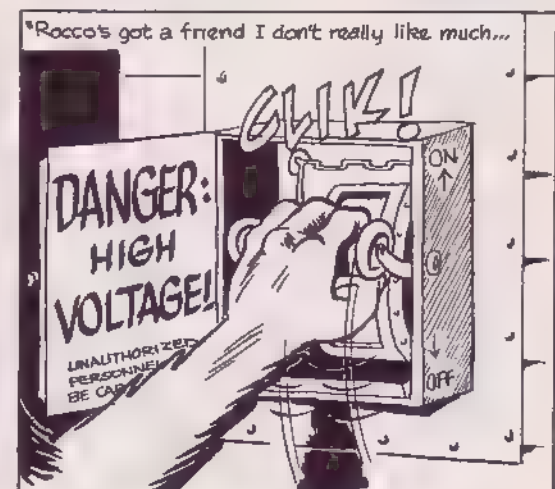
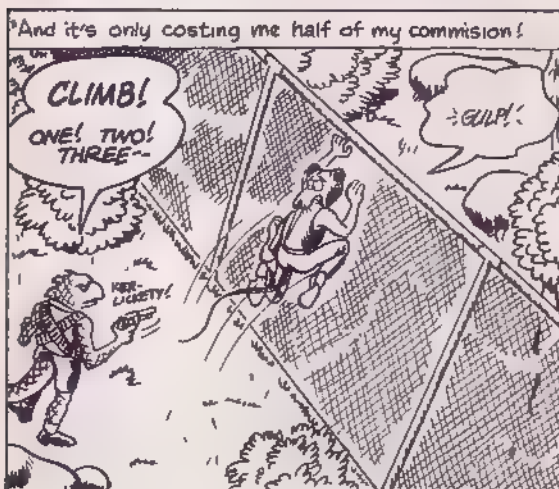


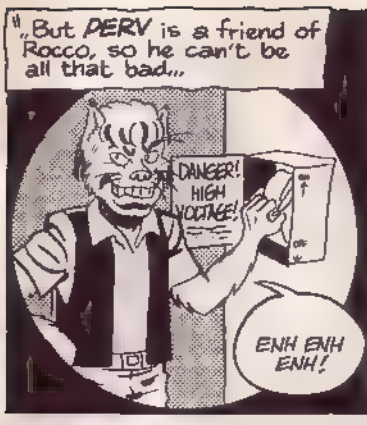
"I think Pop would like the guy that sleeps in the bunk below me"



"He's a real soldier--"







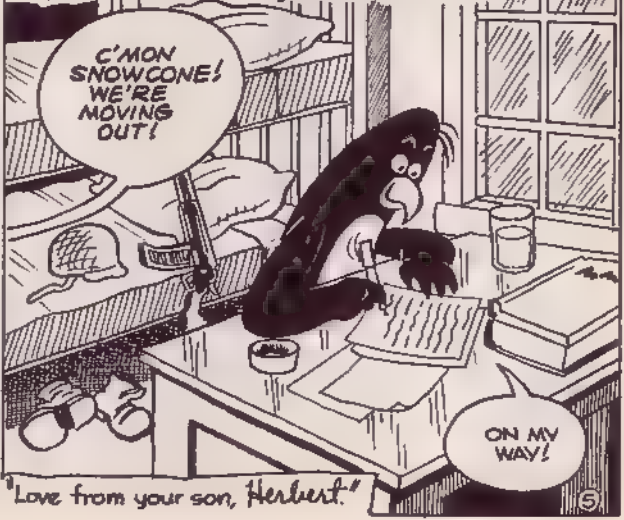
"Oh! I shouldn't forget to mention our squad "honcho".

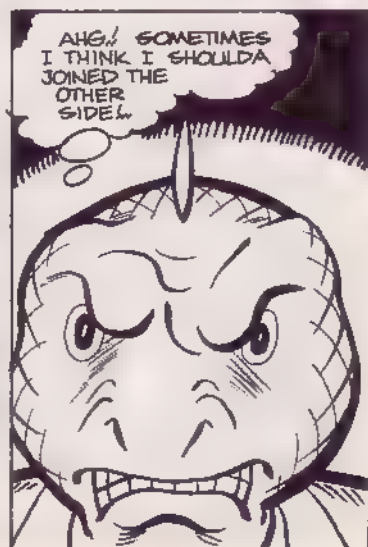
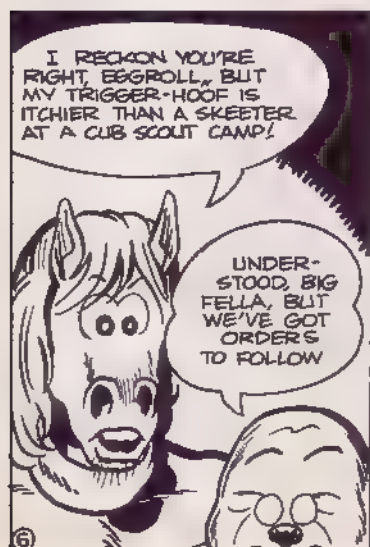
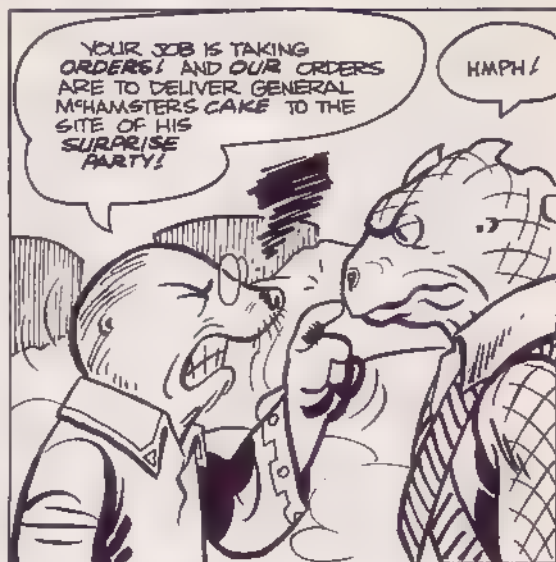
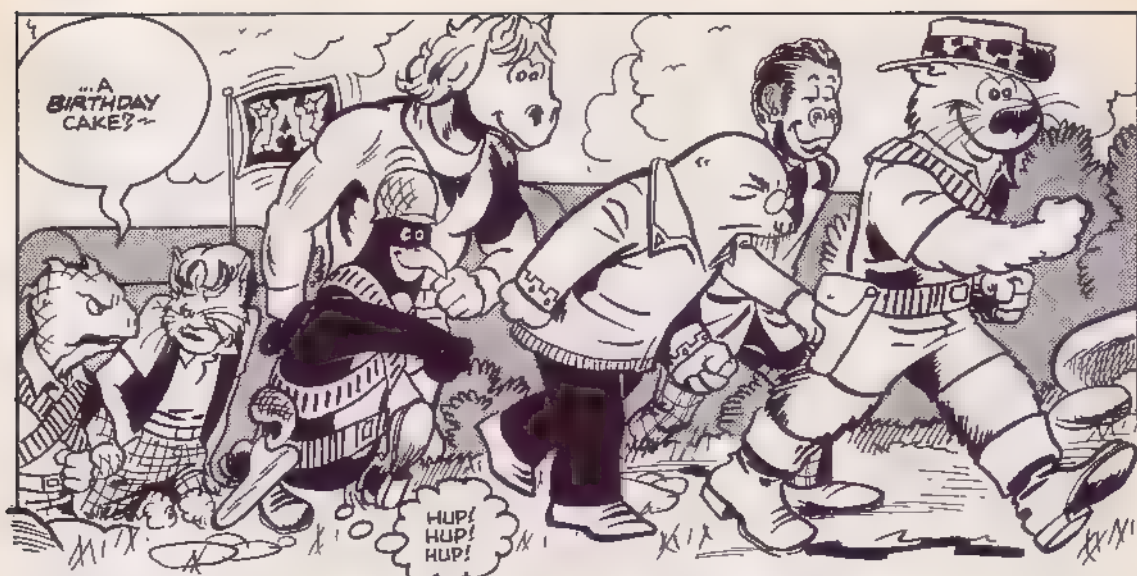


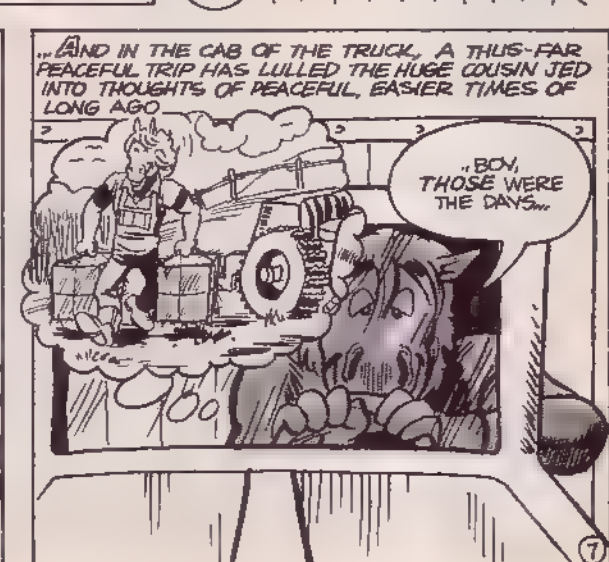
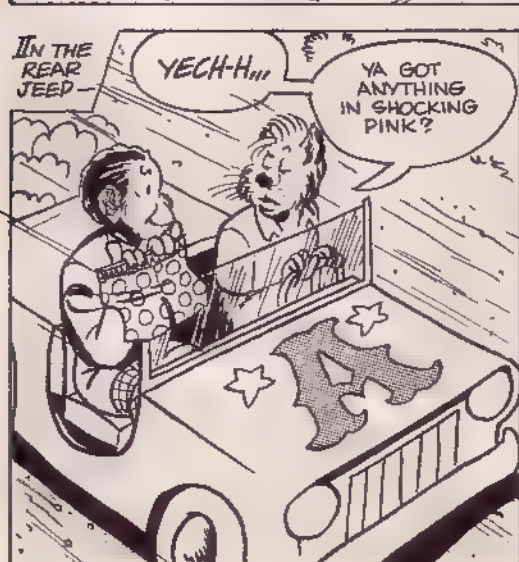
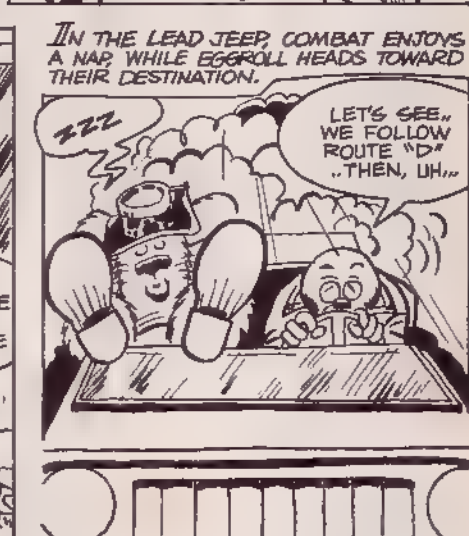
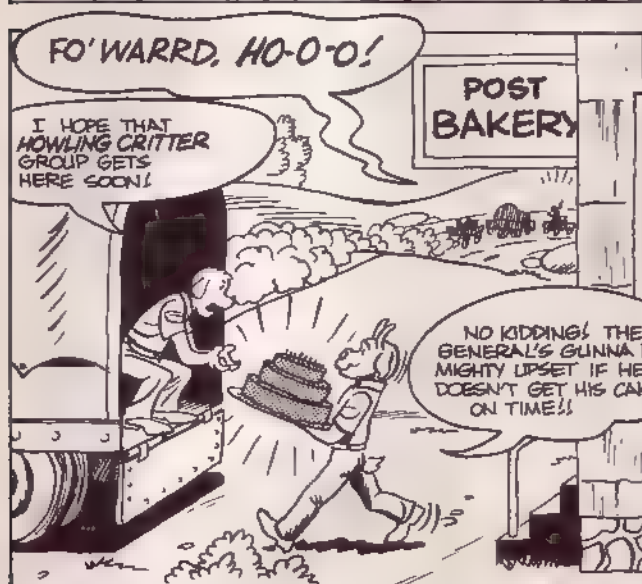
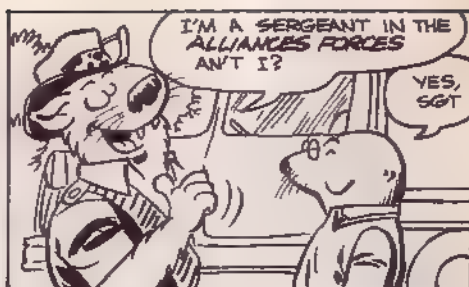
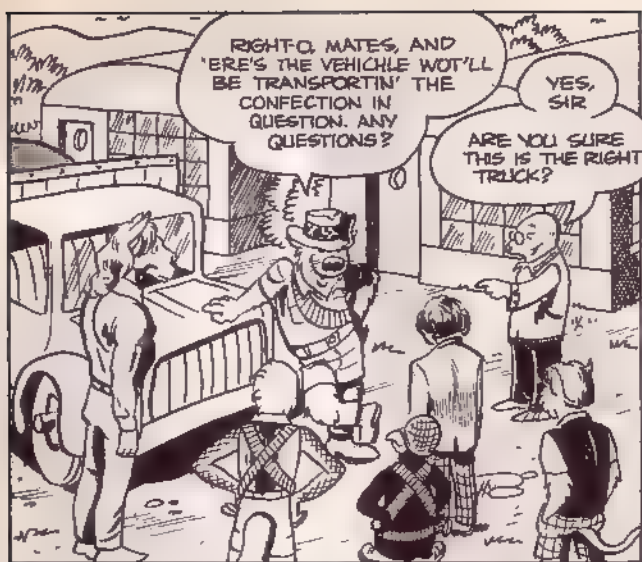
"He's been fighting in the war since it started. His nick-name, fittingly, is **COMBAT!** And he's one tough customer!"

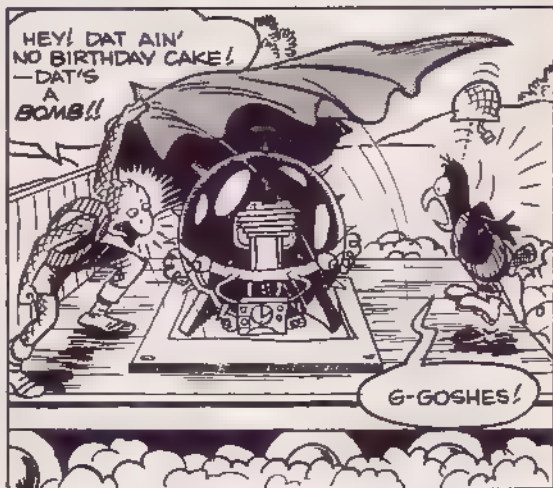
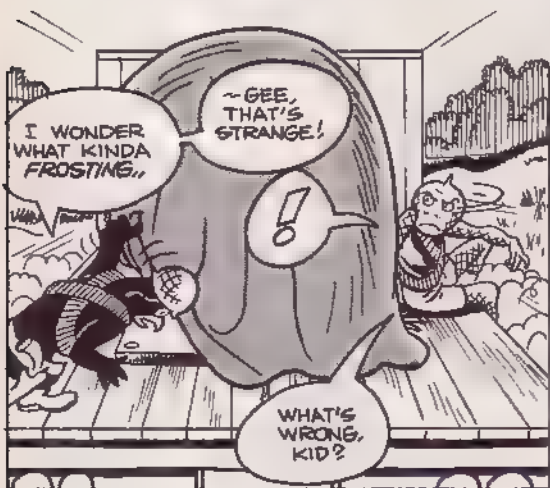
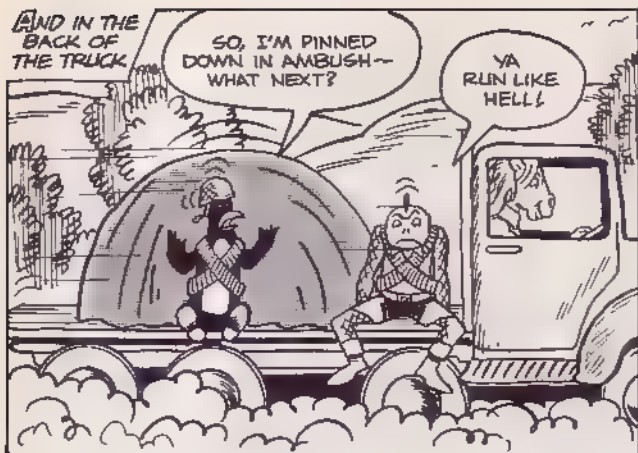


"Well, I've gotta go. We've got an important mission to perform. I'll write again soon as I can."





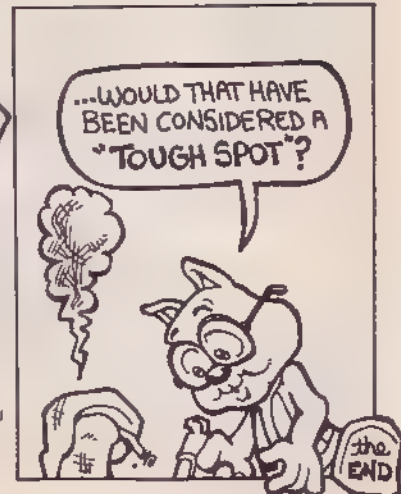
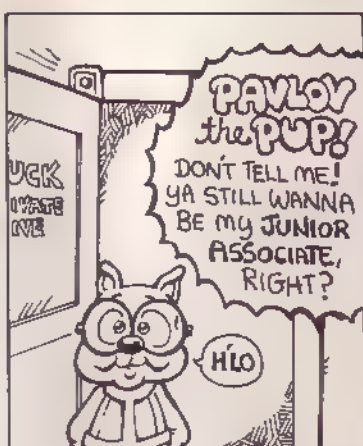
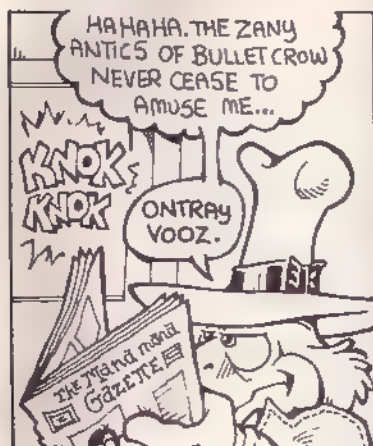




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